

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF  
WEST AFRICAN STATES



COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE  
DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE  
DE L'OUEST

## **ELEVENTH MEETING OF ECOWAS ENERGY MINISTERS**

**ACCRA, 31 OCTOBER 2012**

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### **FINAL COMMUNIQUE**

1. The 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECOWAS Energy Ministers was held in Accra, Republic of Ghana, on October 31, 2012
2. Having noted the persistent energy crisis in the region and its effects on the economic development of Member States, the Energy Ministers expressed their commitment to the improvement of energy security and increased access to modern energy services through the promotion and use of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies in ECOWAS Member States.
3. The Meeting of Energy Ministers expresses satisfaction with current market trends which indicate a consistent price reduction for renewable energy technologies, making them more competitive and offering opportunities for the diversification of the ECOWAS region's energy sources.
4. The Meeting of Energy Ministers proceeded to review the reports presented by the Experts of the Member States at various fora pertaining to renewable energy and energy efficiency, particularly:
  - a) The ECOWAS Energy Efficiency Policy;
  - b) The ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy;
  - c) The ECOWAS Small-Scale Hydro Power Programme; and
  - d) The ECOWAS Bio-energy Strategy.
5. The Meeting of Energy Ministers expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved in the development of these initiatives and accepted the proposal for accelerating the said initiatives.



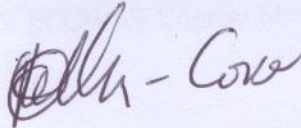
6. On the ECOWAS Energy Efficiency Policy and the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy, the Meeting of Energy Ministers notes the technical and economical feasibility of exploiting the region's significant renewable energy and energy efficiency potentials. The meeting therefore stresses the need to urgently commence the implementation of the action plans of the renewable energy and energy efficiency policies.
7. On the ECOWAS Small-Scale Hydro Power Programme, the Meeting of Energy Ministers highlight the importance of hydro power in addressing the region's energy challenges and calls on Member States to ensure the effective implementation of the programme.
8. On the ECOWAS Bio-energy Strategy, the Meeting of the Energy Ministers notes that bioenergy is the single biggest source of energy in the region and stresses the need to ensure the sustainable exploitation and utilisation of this resource.
9. Consequently, the Meeting of the Energy Ministers adopts the resolutions relating to:
  - The ECOWAS Energy Efficiency Policy;
  - The ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy;
  - The ECOWAS Small-Scale Hydro Power Programme; and
  - The ECOWAS Bio-energy Strategy.
10. The Meeting of the Energy Ministers recommends that the ECOWAS Council of Ministers and the Authority of Heads of State and Government adopt the above-mentioned resolutions.
11. The Meeting of the Energy Ministers commends the visible leadership of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) in the promotion of sustainable energy solutions. In recognition of this role, the Meeting of the Energy Ministers urges ECREEE to play a leading role in the implementation of the SE4All Initiative in West Africa. Consequently, the Meeting of the Energy Ministers directs and mandates the ECOWAS Commission to mobilise the necessary resources for the implementation of this task.
12. The Meeting of the Energy Ministers expresses satisfaction with the Governments of Austria and Spain, as well as the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), who have supported ECREEE to become a unique agency for the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Sub Saharan Africa.
13. The Meeting of the Energy Ministers also expresses gratitude for the support of the Government of France, the European Commission, the Global Environment Fund (GEF), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Agence Française de Développement



(AFD), the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other development partners for their firm commitment and support to ECREEE and the development of ECOWAS regional energy programmes.

14. The Meeting of the Energy Ministers congratulates Dr. Kandeh Kolleh Yumkella, the Director-General of UNIDO and Chairman of UN Energy on his recent appointment by the UN Secretary General as Special Representative for the SE4All and CEO of the Initiative. The Energy Ministers expressed optimism regarding future collaboration between ECOWAS and the Initiative. The Ministers of Energy call on the UN General Assembly to declare a Decade for SE4All.
15. The Meeting of the Energy Ministers expresses deep gratitude to the Government and people of Ghana particularly to the President of the Republic, His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, for the warm welcome and the sincere African hospitality extended to its Members during their stay in Accra.

**Done in Accra, this 31<sup>st</sup> Day of October 2012**



**Chairman  
For the Meeting**